

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An applicator device (1) applies surface size to at least one side of a web (W). A pressure effect is applied to the web (W) by subjecting the web (W) to an underpressure and/or to an overpressure such that surface size is forced to penetrate  
5 into the pores of the web. Most advantageously, an underpressure is created that sucks applied surface size from the surface of the web (W) into the pores in the inner layers. Surface size is applied to a web first side ( $W_1$ ) and a vacuum effect is applied to the web's opposite side ( $W_2$ ) to cause air to flow through the web (W) such that surface size moves from the first side ( $W_1$ ) in the direction of the second side ( $W_2$ )  
10 into the web (W). Correspondingly, both sides of the web (W) can be treated in successive stages.